

Meeting of the Washington Select Board - September 14, 2015

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from August 31, 2015. S. Lennon seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. J. Huebner reported that the Town had received a check for \$4500 from Hinsdale for the coming winter's snow plowing.
4. J. Huebner thanked the volunteers who made this year's Sons and Daughters Reunion a very successful, well-attended and enjoyable event for the Town. He congratulated Trisha Drugmand on winning first prize in the pie baking contest.
5. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson for an update on the effort to install a new "emergency" phone in the Town Hall kitchen. She reported receiving final word from Verizon that they no longer offer "911 outbound service only". Our voice over internet protocol (VOIP) provider , Crocker Communications, will check to see if they can pre-program a phone to provide this service and at what cost.
6. J. Huebner mentioned that he had received paperwork confirming the Washington Cultural Council's contribution to the Becket Athenaeum, the Community Library of Becket and Washington.
7. He reported receiving notification from the University of Massachusetts that Tom Johnson of the Highway Department had completed course work required to earn certification as a state Roads Scholar. He joins Superintendent Dave Fish with that designation.

8. Phil Clark told the Board that there is discussion of using Frost Road as an exit from Washington Mountain Road(WMR) during the re-construction work. He noted that work on Eden Glen may be going on at the same time, creating a challenging traffic situation. He cautioned that we will need to plan carefully.
9. J. Huebner received notice of a Small Town Administrators' meeting on September 24 at 7:00 pm in Great Barrington.
10. S. Lennon reported that there was a quorum at the Conservation Commission meeting last Thursday and that Holden's plan for Cross Place Road bridge was approved.
11. The Board signed the MassWorks grant application prepared by Phil Clark. A copy of the letter attesting to the Town's standing to apply for a Masswork's grant was given to J. Hostetter for the record.
12. Craig Willis, owner of White Wolf excavation, appeared before the Board to discuss a dispute he has had with Highway Superintendent D. Fish over the amount of gravel to be put down on County Road in October Mt. State Forest. The Board asked for paperwork from both parties on the gravel purchase to settle the question. As the documentation was not available at that time this question remains open. Chris Messina has the documents.
13. The Board asked D. Fish to fill the potholes on Upper Valley Road. He agreed to do that and mentioned that the WMR contractor, Balthazar, may make some of the WMR millings available to the Town for other roads.
14. J. Huebner announced that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 26. There will also be a free flu vaccination clinic that day at Town Hall from 5 – 7 pm. Berkshire Public Health Alliance will provide the medical services. All are welcome.

- 15.D.Fish mentioned that the state may put a gate on County Road at the Becket line to prevent people from driving into the forest and getting stuck in the snow on West Branch Road. K. Lew suggested that that it might be best to put “Road Closed” signs at each end of West Branch Road.
- 16.J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to get quotes on bringing a shredder truck to Town Hall on a convenient Saturday to destroy all of the Town’s old records which no longer require storage. All Town departments will be responsible for sorting and boxing their old documents for the shredder truck. Following the mass shredding the Town will buy a heavy duty business shredder for departmental use.
17. The Board signed a letter to the Berkshire County Sheriff requesting the use of a detail from the House of Corrections Community Service Program to assist with the installation of the Old Town Hall windows and other projects in Town. Ed Bond told the Board that the windows have been delivered and he is anxious to start the work at the Old Town Hall.
18. M. Case mentioned that a “K-9 Karnival” will be held September 19 and 20 from 10:00am to 5:00pm behind Ozzie’s in Hinsdale. M. Case will be in the dunk tank.
19. Vera Cormier of the Board of Health reported to the Board that the price of metal is down right now. It is not worth scrapping the old TV bin at the transfer station. She believed it should go to the Highway as requested. Michelle Lampro to be consulted on this question. The Board thanked Vera for doing the food service inspections at the Sons and Daughters.
20. There will be a Special Town Meeting on the 26th October. Among items on the agenda will be the by-law regarding business registration, the Eden Glen dam decision and the question of whether or not to continue as a member of the Pipeline Working Group. There was discussion of holding the debt exclusion vote at that time, but the Town Clerk confirmed that 60

days notification and lead time are required before that election can take place. The cost estimated for a half day election would be \$1050. A full day election would cost more. K. Lew said that we will definitely do the election. It is just a question of when. S. Nelson suggested we ask Ken Nakajima of MBI what is the best course for Washington when he visits later this month.

21. J. Huebner commented briefly on the following:

- a. Berkshire Regional Planning will release the results of its Young Adult and Age Friendly surveys at a meeting in Lenox Town Hall on September 17 at 7:00 pm.
- b. Westfield Wild and Scenic will hold a meeting on September 17 at 6:30 at the Chester Railway Station. All are welcome.
- c. In a letter to the Board, DCR confirmed that Washington owns the Old South Center School House but the state owns the land on which it sits. No action is planned by DCR and none is required of Washington.
- d. The Board asked D. Fish to mow the grass and remove deadfalls at the Old South Center School.
- e. Received a letter from Jeanne Pryor, Chair of the Becket Board of Selectmen, supporting our MassWorks grant application for funds to implement improvements to the Middlefield Road bridge. The Town received a similar letter from the Middlefield Select Board Chair.
- f. Received information from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation about their Central Berkshire Fund and fall seminar series.
- g. Received an email update from HCOG on their electricity aggregation program. They will make recommendations to the Town to guide our application to the program. K. Lew is following this.
- h. On October 2 the MMA will hold a legislative meeting in Dalton. J. Huebner and M. Case may attend.
- i. J. Huebner asked Jodi Hostetter for a copy of a white paper report from the Berkshire County Task Force.

- j. There will be a Board of Health meeting next Monday at 6:30.
- k. Barbara Keyes has resigned from the Board of Health and the Town needs an alternate to the BPHA.
- l. Chief Breen went to at MEMA meeting last Thursday for grant night. We qualify for grant money in the amount of \$2020.00 for Emergency management. He will bring in list of items available next week. J. Huebner expressed interest in equipping the Town Hall for emergency shelter.

22. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nelson